

OPPOSITION TO WILSON'S PEACE POLICY  
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"President Wilson has earned for the nation the curse of Merz for he has not dared to stand on the side of the Lord against the wrongdoings of the mighty."

"When, on February 3, 1917, President Wilson addressed Congress again, announcing the severing of diplomatic relations with Germany and the handing of his passports to Bernstorff, Roosevelt said:

"Of course I shall in every way support the President in all that he does to uphold the honor of the United States and to safeguard the lives of American citizens. Yesterday I wrote to the War Department asking permission to raise a division if war is declared and there is a call for volunteers. In such event I and my four sons will go."

He abandoned a proposed trip to the West Indies, and began at once to agitate for speedy preparation for war.

On March 1, 1917, in a speech at Hartford, Conn., he said:

"If we go to war, we are not to be excused if we do not prepare instantly and to the utmost of all our strength.

... We must strike hard at Germany with the most formidable expeditionary force that can be raised."

At a great mass meeting in Carnegie Hall, on the evening of March 5, 1917, he said:

"The time has come when it is unpardonable for us as a nation to fail to act immediately for the full and effective defense of American rights and performance of American duties."

The inaction of the Wilson Administration disturbed and

alarmed him, and he sought earnestly to move  
it to action.  
In a published statement on March 19, 1917,  
he said:

"The news this morning of the sinking of our  
three ships  
—City of Memphis, Vigttancia and *Illinois*—  
with loss of  
American life, makes it imperative that every  
self-respect-  
ing American should speak out and demand  
that we hit hard  
and effectively. Words are wasted on Germany.  
What we  
need is effective and thorough-going action.